

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 222
By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to commend William G. "Bill" Whitaker for his honorable and astute service to the people and youth of Tennessee as an integral participant and leader within the Boy Scouts of America.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, William G. "Bill" Whitaker is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as an integral part of the scouting program either as a scout or as a scout leader later in life, Bill Whitaker has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man first joined the scouts more than sixty-five years ago when he started with Scout Troop 3 in 1938; he became an Eagle Scout in the summer of 1941, only the tenth scout to achieve the status in his troop; and

WHEREAS, later in life, Mr. Whitaker's belief in the merits of the Boy Scouts led him to serve as an Assistant Scout Master, a Scout Master, a Cub Scout Master, and an Explorer Post Leader; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker was a founding member of the Order of the Arrow for his area and of the Sequoyah Council in 1948; the Order of the Arrow is a renowned honor society for scouts; and

WHEREAS, since 1941, Bill Whitaker has guided the steps of nearly twenty-five hundred boys, to whom he has provided necessary discipline, leadership, and encouragement throughout their service as scouts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker remembers the important and necessary values instilled in him through Scouting, and he has spent all his adult life trying to pass those same values on to new generations of young men. He firmly believes that, "Scouting teaches responsibility, citizenship, learning how to get along with others, and teamwork."; and

WHEREAS, a retired engineer from the Tennessee Valley Authority, this individual has been rightfully recognized locally and regionally for his contributions to Scouting, receiving the Silver Beaver Award and the District Award of Merit; and

WHEREAS, he has served faithfully and with dedication as a lifelong member of the First Presbyterian Church in Bristol, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitaker's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitaker continues to provide inspiration and guidance to the new generation of scouts in Troop 3 and, since he received his rank as Eagle Scout, 147 other young men have followed in his inspirational foot steps; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitaker is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend William G. "Bill" Whitaker for his honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee as an exceptional leader of many generations of Boy Scouts through his service as an Assistant Scout Master, a Scout Master, a Cub Scout Master, and an Explorer Post Leader and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we salute his unwavering commitment to teaching the noble precepts of the Boy Scouts of America and his lifelong dedication to instilling those precepts in the young men under his tutelage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.